Anthony says he is too busy to write another

RUNOFF ROUNDUP

City of Norman Storm Water Quality

Inside this issue:

All too often these days the we hear the words "disaster" and "worst ever" in the news. The BP oil spill was said to be the worst oil spill ever, but did you wonder which event was the worst environmental disaster ever in the US? Scientists and historians generally agree that the Dust Bowl of the 1930's was the worst and most prolonged environmental disaster in American history. Drought along with poor land use practices caused the disaster. Native prairie grasses were plowed under and replaced by wheat. When the drought struck, the wheat withered and died, exposing the bare earth to the Oklahoma winds. People died of "dust pneumonia", and three million left their farms on the plains. More soil was lost by wind erosion than the Mississippi River carried to the sea. A single dust storm on "Black Sunday" in 1935 carried more soil that was dug to create the Panama Canal. Improved soil conservation practices and a break in the drought eventually brought the Dust Bowl to an end. With dry, windy weather we sometimes get a lot of dust in the air even today. Its nothing like Black Sunday, but something to think about when "the wind comes sweepin' down the plain."

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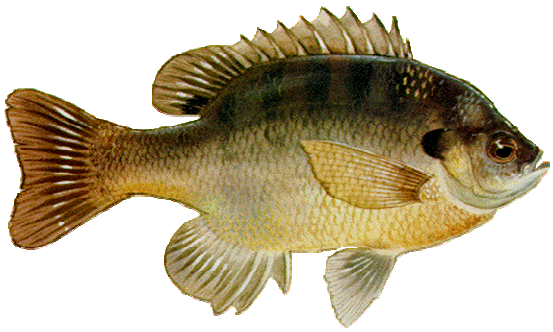
Did ya know?

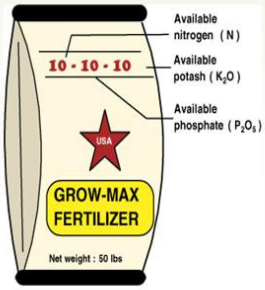
Our atmosphere contains about 21% or 21 parts per hundred of Oxygen. An average lake or stream may contain 7 parts per million . Water holds much less oxygen than air for various chemical reasons which I won't bore you with here. The point is that when the dissolved oxygen (DO) level drops to 2 ppm, or below, fish begin to die. This is what happens when algae blooms, caused by excess nutrients, die off. The decay of this dead algae consumes oxygen faster than it can be replaced by natural methods causing the DO concentration in the water to fall to lethal levels for fish.



How Low Can You Go?

If you don't test your soil, you won't know!

The fact is, most soil in Norman needs very little or no Phosphorus to grow a healthy lawn. Excess Phosphorus can be carried by storm water runoff into the Canadian River and Lake Thunderbird via storm sewers, where it can cause algae blooms and other water quality problems.



So, please test your soil before you apply fertilizer, or if you don't, use a Nitrogen only or Phosphorus free fertilizer.

For more information contact the City of Norman at 292-9721 or visit the Cleveland County Extension website at:
http://osufacts.okstate.edu/docushare/dsweb/Get/Document-6026/L-249.pdf

Anthony says he is too busy to write another column and some of you didn't get the message the first time anyway.

DIRT COP CORNER (REVISITED)

In this issue, we will cover the infamous 14 / 21 Day rule. This continues the last issues article concerning site stabilization.

Part 4.5.6.A.2 of the Oklahoma DEQ OKR10 Storm Water Permit covers "Stabilization Practices". This part of the permit concerns the requirements related to stabilization of the site. This is where the so called 14 / 21 day rule comes from.

According to Part 4.5.6.A.2, "stabilization measures shall be initiated within 14 days after construction activity in that portion of the site has temporarily or permanently ceased." The rule goes on to state that "Where construction activity on a portion of the site is temporarily ceased, and earth disturbing activities will be resumed within 21 days, temporary stabilization measures do not have to be initiated on that portion of the site."

So, what does this all mean? In short, it means that some type of temporary or permanent stabilization must be started no later than 14 days after work has stopped.

However if you plan to start work again within 7 more days, 21 days after worked has stopped, you do not have to worry about stabilization measures.

The rule also gives exception for adverse conditions such as drought and ice, stating that stabilization shall be started as soon as practicable.

More next issue

BMP SPOTLIGHT (REVISITED)

Have you had your fill of silt fence? Do you have a fear of any blue or black fabric? Do you mumble the words "Gotta check the silt fence" at night while sleeping? Never fear a solution to your problems could be just around the corner.

Straw Wattles can be an effective alternative to silt fence in many applications. The advantages over silt fence are numerous including easier installation.

As their name infers, wattles are long rolls of straw wrapped in some type of photodegradable synthetic netting. They come in many different diameters and several different lengths.

Advantages of wattles include ease of installation and removal, disposal after use, access to site, and durability.

Unlike silt fence that can be a pain or costly to install, the installation of wattles is easy. Just dig a shallow indention a couple of inches deep for the wattle to rest in, and stake it down. The stakes can be installed several different ways depending on the application.

Once the site has been stabilized, the wattle can be picked up, or even better sliced open and the straw racked out on the site.

In addition, how many times have you arrive on site to find your silt fence has been run over or torn down by a sub? Well with wattles you can just move them out of the way to allow access and move them back when done. In addition, they are much more resilient to being driven over than silt fence.

They work great in all aspects of sediment control from perimeter control to check dam, heck, even inlet protection.

So next time you need to install silt fence, give the wattle a look, it just might help you save your sanity.

City of Norman Storm Water Quality

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Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)

Storm Water Program: 405-702-8100

Website: http://www.deq.state.ok.us/

Find us on the Web at www.normanok.gov Or www.greennorman.org

ODEQ WORKING ON NEW STORM WATER PERMIT

The Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality has drafted a new permit OKR10 for Storm Water Discharges from Construction Activities. The permit will replace the existing permit which expires this fall. A draft of the new permit has been sent to EPA Region VI in Dallas for review and approval. For more information on the permit go to the ODEQ website at:

http://www.deq.state.ok.us/wqdnew/stormwater/index.html